



NEWSLETTER of the Wisconsin Entomological Society

Volume 1 Number 2

James W. Mertins, Editor

May, 1973

EDITOR'S NOTES

It is with great sadness that we announce to any who are not as yet aware of it, the death of past-president of WES and first editor of the NEWSLETTER, Mr. Lutz J. Bayer. Lutz was fatally injured in an automobile accident on Easter Sunday in Minnesota, and was buried near his home on Long Island, N.Y., the following Friday. The current editor, and two other Wisconsin entomologists, Corrine Thomas and Jim Stevens, were in attendance at the funeral. Although his untimely death occurred before the appearance of this, the first full-fledged number of the NEWSLETTER, much of its contents may be attributed to his industry, and we vow to continue in his stead as best we can.

James W. Mertins, member of the Editorial Committee, has been appointed editor of the NEWSLETTER, replacing the late Lutz Bayer. Herbert Grimek has volunteered to fill the vacancy thus created on the committee.

You will note that this issue of the NEWSLETTER is numbered Volume 1 - Number 2. In checking the archives, an earlier communication to the membership dated Spring, 1971, was found to bear the NEWSLETTER title, and was numbered Volume 1 - Number 1. Hence the current designation. We hope that through the NEWSLETTER all of our members will be able to participate in the functioning of our Society.

NOTICES

(This column will accept and publish any personal notes from members in regard to specimens or equipment desired, or for sale, trade, or exchange.)

Wanted. Confirmable reports or specimens from termite infestations within Wisconsin. Please contact Glenn Esenther, U.S. Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, with any information you may have.

The NEWSLETTER of the Wisconsin Entomological Society is published two to four times yearly at irregular intervals. Please send all news, notes, contributions and other items for the NEWSLETTER to the Editor, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

NOTICES (cont.)

Wanted. Pseudoscorpions - live or preserved in alcohol. Any species. Will accept any specimens you don't want, or have house pseudoscorpion, Chelifer cancroides, for trade. Jim Mertins, Dept. of Entomology, University of Wisconsin, Madison 53706.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

(This column will serve to keep the membership up to date on other members' activities, honors, address changes, new members, or other news.)

Dr. R. J. Dicke was one of two recipients of \$500.00 awards for excellence in teaching in the U. W. College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The award was presented at the annual banquet of Gamma Sigma Delta, honor society in agriculture, in April.

Bill Phillipsen reports that he caught a large wolf spider and fed it a June beetle while on guard duty at summer camp for the U.S. Army Reserve in Arkansas.

COLLECTING TRIP RECORDS

One of the suggested functions of the NEWSLETTER was for it to be the repository for lists of insects collected by members of the group at the various Society functions each year. Thus, separate lists would appear for the collecting trip to Bill Sieker's farm, the fall sugaring trip, and any other organized function. Unfortunately, during the first two years of our organized trips nobody has made an effort to accumulate this information. Unless some of you have kept records of your catches and wish to share them with this publication as a partial list, we must assume the loss of these data. We propose to prepare a form for distribution to all participants at future collecting trips which will make it harder for members to forget making a list of their specimens, and easier to submit the same to the editor.

HISTORY OF WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGY

(To appear in this space in subsequent issues, a continuing series summarizing the history of the science and hobby of entomology in Wisconsin over approximately the last 100 years.)

WISCONSIN INSECT NOTES

Members, share your experiences with others. Did you collect anything interesting this year? Share your observations with all of us! We'd like to hear from you; send us anything of interest, from collecting to entomological jokes or poems.

WIS. INSECT NOTES(cont.)

"Nevermore!" ('til 1990).

Be on the lookout!! According to the Cooperative Economic Insect Report of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Vol. 23(19): 277-278) Brood XIII of periodical cicadas (17-year race) is scheduled to appear this year in northern Illinois, the eastern quarter of Iowa, the extreme southern portions of Wisconsin and Michigan, and the northwestern corner of Indiana. The so-called "locusts" should appear in late May, and for about 6 weeks fill the countryside with their remarkable song, mate, lay eggs in twigs, and pass away as suddenly as they appeared.

Dr. R. C. Froeschner, Federal taxonomist at the U.S. National Museum, is anxious to obtain specimens for determination. All records are welcome, but particularly the date of appearance is desired. If you see or hear this insect, please submit the record of the exact location and date to Dr. Foeschner at the USNM, Washington, D. C. The U.W. Insectarium would also appreciate representative specimens.

Remember this is the last chance until 1990 to collect this interesting bug!!

PROGRAM NOTES

(This space will normally report on such things as the results of the organized Society collecting trips including species lists, and announcements of upcoming programs, events and meetings. We include in this issue only, two Secretary's reports which usually appear in the monthly Meeting Notes, but have unavoidably been previously unpublished.)

MINUTES OF THE WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOR THE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 16, 1973

The April 16th meeting of the Wisconsin Entomological Society was called to order by acting Chairman, Bill Sieker, in the absence of President Coppel. There were no additions or corrections to the Secretary's report. Jim Mertins called for a publication report on the NEWSLETTER. Lutz Bayer said that the first publication would be out by the end of the month.

There was no further business, so Bill proceeded with the introduction of the speaker for the evening. Dr. Ron Hodges from the United States National Museum was with us and presented an interesting discussion on the taxonomy of the Microlepidoptera. He began with a discussion of the history behind the present classification and how this caused problems for people using the existing keys. Today there are 100 to 125 proposed families in 4 suborders. The best present overview is written by Common in The Insects of Australia. Dr. Hodges then separated the Microlepidoptera from other lepidopterous groups by their possession of 3 setae on the thoracic spiracles of the larvae. He gave the characteristics separating the 4 suborders. He mentioned some of the current problems in the taxonomy of the group and explained why he and associates are undertaking a revision of the moths.

In previous classifications the authors only examined a few characters and a few specimens. With careful examination of many specimens, it has been found that many of the characters in present use are variable within the species.

APRIL 16 MINUTES (cont.)

Therefore many are incorrectly placed and named. Also additional unnecessary genera and even families are in existence that can be eliminated in the present on-going revision.

The publication now being released in fascicles by numerous authors, each specializing in a particular group within the moths, is called the Moths of America North of Mexico. It contains descriptions of each species to aid in identification, what their life cycle is, and what kinds of problems are encountered in naming and identification. The completed work will be a catalog to all of the names and will contain lists of type localities and type specimens. It will contain information on 12,000 to 13,000 species with colored illustrations. The purpose of the work is to bring the knowledge about the Microlepidoptera back to a solid basis.

Dr. Hodges also devoted part of his presentation to the method he uses for pinning his specimens. With this he included a sample of spread Microlepidoptera, some with only a $\frac{1}{4}$ " wing spread.

After the presentation the meeting was adjourned and Dr. Hodges invited everyone to see the materials he had with him about the book and his work.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Duehn
Secretary

MINUTES OF THE WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOR THE MEETING HELD ON
MAY 17, 1973

The May 17th meeting of the Wisconsin Entomological Society was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Harry Coppel. The President welcomed back one of our seldom seen members, Dr. Robert Dicke, who was in attendance due to the end of the bowling season.

A standing moment of silence was observed by all present for Lutz Bayer, who was killed in an automobile accident since the last meeting.

Dr. Coppel proceeded to give an interesting talk on Hawaii illustrated by colorful slides. Exciting vistas of the coastal areas and various geographical features were well represented. Also shown were numerous tropical fruits, flowers, and other portions of the Hawaiian flora. Of particular interest to the group was the series of slides on termites, termite control in Hawaii, including the large, colorful striped tents used to completely enclose buildings for fumigation with hydrogen cyanide.

A short business meeting followed the presentation. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved with the correction that the Moths of America North of Mexico is to cover 12,000 to 13,000 species, not 1200 to 1300. President Coppel charged the remaining members of the Editorial Committee with the responsibility of soliciting a new member from the general membership of the Society, if necessary, and the selection of a new editor from within the Committee. It was announced that a floral memorial was sent in the Society's name to the funeral of the late Lutz Bayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

James Stevens
Acting Secretary

MEMBERSHIP LIST OF THE WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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+ 1973 dues unpaid (\$2.00)

William Hilsenhoff, Treasurer

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Address correction requested